

PD 11 – Region 2000

Introduction

Region 2000 (PD 11) includes 2,147 square miles and has a population of 234,900 residents (2005 estimate). This region encompasses the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford and Campbell; the cities of Bedford and Lynchburg; and the towns of Altavista, Amherst, Appomattox, Brookneal and Pamplin City. The central region has two major rivers, the James River in the north and the Staunton River in the south. These rivers offer a multitude of recreational and historically significant resources such as the Kanawha Canal and portions of each are designated Scenic Rivers. In addition, Smith Mountain Lake and Holliday Lake state parks both serve this region. Moving from west to east, the topography of the region ranges from mountainous to gently rolling farmland. This variety of landscapes lends itself to many different recreational activities.

In general, the area's growth rate between 2000 and 2005 has been about 2.6% with Bedford City actually losing 1.6% of its population. Projected population has all jurisdictions gaining population, except the City of Lynchburg, which is anticipated to decline by 4% by 2020, due to the growth outside the city limits. Future growth is anticipated to be steady, with the population in the region projected to increase 11.6% to 255,200 in 2020 from its 2000 census level of 228,616. As the population of PD 11 grows so does the recreational needs of its residents. While the predominant land use is agricultural, several pockets of heavy industrial development are dispersed throughout the region. This creates population centers that demand recreational facilities and activities.

Outdoor Recreation

Statewide the participation in outdoors activities has dropped. This is true for PD 11 even though the population has increased. Generally, activity participation for PD 11 is the same as statewide rates. Several activity areas have increased since the 2002 survey. The most significant rise in PD 11 for participation is fitness trail use and swimming outdoors. Though hunting rates dropped statewide, hunting remains a popular activity with a higher participation rate.

The following recommendations relative to resources in the region could contribute to regional open space and/or recreational opportunities for meeting current and future needs of area residents.

Demand/survey findings

Based on the findings of the 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey* (VOS), the top ten most popular outdoor activities in the region are walking for pleasure, driving for pleasure, swimming, visiting historic sites, visiting natural areas, sunbathing, fishing, picnicking, boating, and using a playground, respectively. The most needed facilities are walking and jogging trails located close to home. Access to recreational waters is a high demand in this region, especially for swimming, sunbathing, fishing and boating. One of the unique findings of PD 11 is the importance of hunting. Though the frequency of participation has dropped relative to the last census; it has not dropped nearly as much as the rest of the state and there continues to be a need for open lands for this activity.

The Demand, Supply and Needs Analysis, **Table ----¹**, compares the existing supply of outdoor recreation facilities in the region with the demand measured by the 2006 Virginia Outdoors Survey and computes need. The needs are then projected out to the year 2020 using population projections. Additional areas where the greatest unmet recreational facility needs are: tent camping sites, outdoor swimming, basketball courts, campsites, soccer fields, baseball fields, sunbathing opportunities, softball fields, and outdoor swimming pools.

¹ Sections in Blue Highlighting need to be confirmed

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Specific needs identified in PD 11 are:

- Trails for walking, fitness and bicycling close to home
- Off-road motorcycling and four-wheel driving
- Water access for fishing, swimming and boating
- Playgrounds close to home
- Natural areas for visiting and education
- Multipurpose fields for soccer, football, baseball, softball and other field sports
- Additional basketball and volleyball courts
- Open lands for hunting
- Parks with tent camping

For some of the activities that had a reduction in demand the survey shows a surplus of facilities. For example it seems that the number of campsites and picnicking facilities is more than adequate to meet the lower demands. The most notable of these was developed campsites and picnicking facilities. Use of these facilities may need to be redefined based on the demand needs.

Surveys of this area indicate both a perceived and an actual lack of recreational facilities throughout the region.

- State and regional agencies should place a high priority on providing recreation opportunities to the Commonwealth's urban population in "close-to home" settings to allow for better access and to avoid overuse of facilities planned for rural populations.
- Local agencies in partnership with state and federal agencies should ensure that adequate supplies of recreation and open space are provided to meet demand and that those areas and facilities are adequately staffed, funded, and maintained. A dedicated funding source for the acquisition, management, and maintenance of recreation areas and facilities should be considered a priority.
- Activity user groups, along with local parks and recreation departments, should continue to educate outdoor recreation enthusiasts to be cognizant of the impacts they have on others and the resources to minimize user conflicts, and increase economic and natural resource sustainability.
- Local, state, and federal government should provide the appropriate number and venue of opportunities for the Commonwealth's population to enjoy and access outdoor environments.
- State and local DCR and local parks and recreation departments should provide opportunities to learn responsible use of public lands through the teaching of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! Skills.
- DCR and other natural resource agencies should provide leadership and example in operations and maintenance on behalf of conservation and outdoor ethics.
- Property owners should promote management techniques that promote safe outdoor recreation environments.

Land Conservation

The land conservation map for the region includes existing conservation land in the following categories.

- State/Federal conservation lands: split by state and federal management agencies
- Local open space lands
- Conservation easements
- Designated historic districts and eligible historic districts

The acreages for each land conservation category are shown on the map. Many organizations work together with localities and the region to provide an array of land conservation mechanisms. (See Land Conservation [Chapter III](#))

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[Begin Textbox]

Land Trusts Operating in PD 11:

- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- James River Association
- Western Virginia Land Trust

[End Textbox]

General recommendations for land conservation include:

- To meet the Chesapeake Bay Agreement goal for watershed protection, and Governor Kaine's stated goal of preserving 400,000 acres of land in the state by 2010, strong state tax incentives for land conservation should be maintained, and a dedicated funding source should be established by the General Assembly.
- All localities should continue to promote the conservation of open space through land acquisition, conservation easements, stewardship agreements, the development of agricultural and forestal districts, or any of the many open space protection strategies presented in the Land Conservation Chapter.
- As population growth accelerates, development pressure, land conservation and sound land use decision-making must become prominent considerations in all land-planning efforts. Localities, state agencies, and private organizations must make deliberate decisions about how to focus and prioritize their land conservation efforts. To do so, they must develop a method of targeting conservation efforts, using green infrastructure land planning techniques, geographic information systems, local comprehensive plans, and decision support systems such as the Virginia Conservation Lands Needs Assessment.
- All localities should continue to promote the conservation and preservation of open space through land acquisition, conservation easements, stewardship agreements, the development of agricultural and forestal districts, the outright purchase of land, or any of the many open space protection strategies presented in the Land Conservation Chapter..
- Meeting conservation goals will require partnerships among all agencies.
- Land conservation projects should offer a wide range of public benefits including water quality protection, habitat preservation, and public access.

Specific conservation recommendations for this region include:

- Localities that lie within the viewshed of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Trail should work to protect the scenic views. The National Park Service has developed viewshed management and landscape design guidelines that may be useful in this endeavor.
- Encourage development away from mountaintops to protect significant scenic views.
- Provide adequate protection for existing farmland and/or create farmland preserve.
 - 1) Protect **Monacan Indian lands**.
 - 2) Protect the historic **Curtis Community**.
 - 3) **Bedford City** should explore a cooperative agreement with the County to share resources, since the City is landlocked and land resources are not available.

Green Infrastructure Recommendations

The following are regional recommendations for implementation of green infrastructure planning presented in Chapter IV.

- Local governments should take the lead in securing green infrastructure through planning tools.
- Regional and local governments should adopt and implement the green infrastructure planning model to ensure sustainable development of their community and a high quality of life for future generations.
- Local and regional agencies and conservation organizations should receive information and education about green infrastructure planning including guidance on local zoning initiatives that lead to changes in community design and transportation systems.

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- Sources of funding for local government green infrastructure initiatives should be identified and sought.
- Regional and local governments should protect the management of watersheds by integrating watershed management planning with local land use ordinances and comprehensive plans through DCR's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act land use management initiative.
- A proposed drinking water reservoir on the Buffalo River could prove to hold additional recreational opportunities.

Programs

The programs listed in this subsection outline recommendations related to statewide initiatives for outdoor recreation and conservation. The program areas include: Trails and Greenways, Blueways and Water Access, Historic and Landscape Resources, Scenic Resources, Scenic Highways/Virginia Byways, Scenic Rivers, Watersheds and Environmental and Land Stewardship Education.

Trails and Greenways

Trail and greenway planning initiated at the local and regional level is important for the future development of an infrastructure that promotes public health. Only a handful of local governments have a formally adopted trails plan. With only a small percentage of existing plans approved and integrated into the locality's comprehensive plan, there is a risk that development will continue to occur without consideration for people who want to integrate exercise into their daily routine by walking, jogging, or cycling to points of interest. Each locality should develop a trail and greenway plan, bicycle and pedestrian plan, and/or green infrastructure plan incorporating trails that will be adopted as a formal component of the comprehensive plan. In the plan, an effort should be made to link existing and proposed public lands and other resources valued by the community with businesses and neighborhoods.

General Trail and Greenway Recommendations:

- Local governments should have a greenways and trails component in their comprehensive plan that provides for a variety of leisure trail experiences and promotes pedestrian and bicycle transportation alternatives.
- State, regional and local governments should include funds for trail development, management and maintenance in annual capital and operating budgets, and seek creative ways to provide incentive funding for trail development.
- State, regional and local governments should strengthen the public's understanding of the connection between trails and public health and establish policies that support pedestrian and bicycle facilities in road construction and development/redevelopment projects.
- DCR should partner with Planning District Commissions to a) facilitate communications between trail providers, users, and policy makers, b) encourage the private sector to improve regional and statewide trail opportunities and support and c) focus on regional trail networks to establish a trunkline statewide trail system.
- Local and regional trail managers should provide information about their trail at trailheads, in brochures and on Web sites so that users can choose sections within their skill and capability levels.
- Convert private trails to public ones to increase trail network. Consider using utility easements to accomplish this.
- There is also a need to provide connections to trail facilities located in the adjacent counties.
- Support development of the **Greenway & Blueways Plan** (2003) for the Region.

Specific Trail recommendations include:

4) The **James River Heritage Trail**, for bikes and hikers, is proposed to follow America's Founding River from the Chesapeake Bay to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The trail follows the old Kanawha

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Canal towpath from Lynchburg using park trails, scenic riverside roadways and urban riverfront trails deep into the heart of Virginia.

- 5) The **Appalachian Trail** is an existing National Scenic Trail. For more than 75 years the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and its member clubs continue to voluntarily work with federal, state and local governments, as well as numerous individual landowners to solve problems associated with the acquisition, development, administration, management and maintenance of the trail.
- 6) Develop a trail from **Bedford County to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail**.
- 7) Develop the **Appomattox Heritage and Recreational Trail**, a trail system that links the historic resources, enhances tourism opportunities, and provides for improved wellness and quality of life benefits for area residents.
- 8) Continue collaborative efforts to create a trail connection between the **Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park and the High Bridge Trail State Park**. The network would include pedestrian and bike facilities that link the park to key destinations in Appomattox County and the Town of Appomattox for recreation, wellness, transportation, and heritage tourism.
- 9) Develop the **Cumberland to Appomattox Trail** that will tie together the Cumberland State Forest and the Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park via the Buckingham/Appomattox State Forest. The existing Willis River Trail could be linked by current forest roads and short sections of trail across private land to join these resources together and provide opportunities for hiking and horseback riding.
- 10) A **Lynchburg to Appomattox Trail** should be considered using abandoned railroad corridors and private lands. This would connect Lynchburg's **Blackwater Creek Natural Area/National Recreation Trail** to a proposed greenway corridor along the James River through Amherst, Campbell and Appomattox counties to Historic Appomattox Court House.
- 11) A **Concord to Appomattox Trail** should be considered to bridge the gap between the proposed Cumberland to Appomattox Trail and the TEA-21 funded James River Trail being built from the City of Lynchburg across southern Amherst County to the Mount Athos area of Campbell County. This trail would link the City of Lynchburg's Blackwater Creek Natural Area with the Appomattox Courthouse National Historic Park and the route of Lee's Retreat.
- 12) A **Staunton River Trail**, which would feature Native American campsites and other historic and aesthetic points of interest, could be developed along the scenic Staunton River from Altavista to Brookneal.
- 13) A **Blue Ridge Railroad/Appalachian Trail** should be extended along the old railroad right of way along the Piney and Tye Rivers.
- 14) A **Poplar Forest/Blackwater Creek/Peaksview Park Trail** should be developed to include a connection to the Appomattox Court House and the D-Day Memorial in Bedford.
- 15) Update the **Lynchburg Trail Plan** with recommendations for extensions into Bedford County and downtown development of the James River waterfront.
- 16) Develop and implement the plan for **High Bridge Trail State Park**, which will connect to other trails.

Blueways & Water Access

Water Trail Recommendations

- The navigable rivers of the state should be managed as water trails. Public access areas and support facilities should be developed at appropriate intervals along these rivers.
 - Regional and local governments should work with state agencies to market water trails through brochures, maps, signage and the media.
 - Local jurisdictions should encourage both private and public landowners to operate rest stops and boat-in-only campgrounds along water trails at suitable site locations along Virginia rivers and streams.
 - Identify and develop additional public water accesses along recreational rivers throughout the region.
- 17) Develop a **James River Water Trail**.

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18) Develop a blueway on the **Staunton River**.

19) Add the needed access on the **James River** at the head of pool of the Cushaw hydro-power project near Snowden.

Water Access Recommendations

- Identify and increase water access opportunities to the James River and Virginia's southern rivers.
- As more public water access is achieved, create clean up days and education on litter and dumping to preserve water quality for all users.

20) Implement the **Smith Mountain Lake Shoreline Management Plan** by Appalachian Power Company, which should consider access opportunities and guidelines for the lake and classify access points and facilities as public, private or commercial.

21) Public water access areas are needed on the **James River** between Eagle Rock and Snowden and between Lynchburg and Bent Creek. DCR, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, and DGIF should continue to work with localities to finalize and implement plans to acquire and develop a series of boating and fishing access sites and canoe-in campsites along the James River. Portage opportunities should be provided when possible around dams located on the James River.

22) Public water access areas are needed on the **Staunton River** between the existing access points at Altavista, Long Island, and Brookneal.

Historic and Landscape Resources

- General recommendations include: Each locality in the region should make every effort to identify historic and archaeological resources within each jurisdiction that can be used for economic, tourism, recreational and educational benefits, and should include those resources in all local land use planning and decision-making processes to promote preservation and protection of these resources.
- Local historic attractions, historical societies, museums and other tourism organizations in the region should build partnerships with the Virginia Association of Museums, Virginia Civil War Trails, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities/Preservation Virginia, the Virginia Main Street Program and others to enhance local heritage tourism, educational and recreational offerings.
- Local governments and private organizations owning historic properties in the region should be encouraged to manage those properties effectively for long-term protection of the public trust and to maximize public benefit consistent with the nature of the historic property.

Specific Historic and Landscape Resources recommendations include:

23) Develop a **historic trail** connecting the Appomattox National Historic site with other sites in the area.

Scenic Resources

Management of Virginia's scenic resources is linked to economic prosperity of the state. Tourism relies on the overall aesthetic character of the Commonwealth, as do business, industry and residents. Scenic Resources also reflect the ecological health of the region. More information on scenic resources can be found in **Chapter ____**.

- Each locality should conduct a visual resources assessment as part of their green infrastructure inventory and mapping process. Consider using universities and other institutions to help supplement and support this effort.
- Localities should ensure that a component of their comprehensive plan provides for the protection and enhancement of scenic resources, visual character and viewsheds.
- Localities should develop corridor management plans for scenic byways, blueways, and greenways to assure preservation of the scenic quality of the corridor.

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- Localities that lie within the viewshed of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Trail should work at a regional level creating a scenic overlay zone adjacent to and within the viewshed to protect the scenic views.
- Encourage development away from mountaintops to protect significant scenic views.
- Timber harvesting plans should include consideration of impacts on key viewsheds.
- Protect viewsheds to rivers from public facilities; including trails.

Scenic Highways/Virginia Byways

Scenic roads provide leisure time experiences and connect travelers to various scenic, historic, cultural and recreational sites. Since driving for pleasure and visiting historic sites are in the top three recreational activities, these resources become a critical link for communities. The preservation of their inherent qualities is critical to of attractive and welcoming communities. Many scenic road corridors have been changing as forests and farmsteads are converted into more developed land uses. Designation of these roads, through the Virginia Byway Program, provides opportunities for promotion and protection.

Many collaborative efforts have used scenic roads to tell a significant story of our history and natural resources. These thematic trails are further discussed in the Scenic Byways subsection of Chapter VII.

On September 22, 2005, for the first time ever four new national byway designations were given to Virginia roads. The Blue Ridge Parkway, a portion which is in PD 11, was given the highest designation as an All-American Road.

Following are general recommendations for scenic roads:

- Local governments should partner with other state, local and professional organizations to determine implementation strategies to protect the scenic assets of byway corridors.
- The DGIF should continue to work with regional and local governments and other organizations to encourage additional marketing and enhancements to Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail sites. Ecotourism is an important component in promoting natural resource conservation.
- Local jurisdictions should recognize and nominate scenic roads for designation as Virginia Byways.

Specific roads to be studied are recommended for into the Virginia Byways Program:

24) **Blue Ridge Parkway** - The diverse history and culture of the southern Appalachian Mountains is showcased along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Protection of the scenic viewsheds and natural, historical and cultural resources for the Blue Ridge Parkway corridor is critical to the continue beauty and uniqueness of these corridors and their environs. Increasing encroachment has a major impact on the quality of the visitor's recreational experience. Develop comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances to ensure that the intrinsic value of the parkway and its viewsheds are conserved.

25) The portion of **US 29** that connects with Route 43.

26) The portion of **Route 622** from Lynchburg Nelson County.

27) **Route 460** as it connects to Route 24.

28) The continuation of **Route 624** to create a loop.

29) **Routes 24 and 614** in Appomattox County from the Appomattox/Campbell County line to the Buckingham/Appomattox County line are elements of the "Lee's Retreat Route."

30) A **James River Byway** would consist of roads that closely parallel the James River Bateau Festival trail. The corridor would include Route 622 and Route 130 in Amherst County.

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Scenic Rivers

An ever-increasing awareness of Virginia's Scenic Rivers is a direct result of concerns for water quality, biodiversity, scenic landscapes, and water quantity. River resources are a critical component for natural resource planning. In PD 11 a portion of the Staunton River is designated as a scenic river.

In order to more successfully protect river resources the following general recommendations are given.

- Local government should nominate candidate streams and rivers for study and possible Scenic River designation.
- DCR should assist local governments with development of planning tools (e.g., land-use overlays, corridor management plans) that will afford special recognition and protection to Virginia's Scenic Rivers.

Specific recommendations for Virginia Scenic Rivers includes:

The following river segment has been evaluated and qualifies as a Virginia Scenic River:

31) The **Staunton River** in Campbell County from the Town of Altavista to the beginning of the current designation at Long Island.

The following river segment should be evaluated to determine its suitability as a Virginia Scenic River:

32) The **James River** in Campbell, Amherst, and Appomattox counties from Lynchburg to Bent Creek.

Watershed Resources

PD 11 is split between the Southern Rivers watershed and the James River watershed, with most of PD 11 in the James River watershed. (List of local watershed groups will be included in a later draft)

General watershed recommendation:

- Regional and local governments should protect the management of watersheds by integrating watershed management planning with local land use ordinances and comprehensive plans.

Environmental and Land Stewardship Education Recommendations

- Outdoor Environmental Education needs are being assessed for each region. The information about potential outdoor education facility needs will be identified in a later draft.
- Federal, state, regional, and local agencies will provide citizens access to stewardship education and conservation resources.
- Federal, state, regional, and local agencies will promote the value and benefits of outdoor experiences and their relationship to environmentally literate citizenry.
- Provide education, especially for landowners adjacent to public open space, on the value of outdoor recreation and conserving lands.
- Educate on the real versus perceived value of open space and corridor preserves.

FEDERAL FACILITIES

National Parks Recommendations

- Continue to develop multi-modal connections to NPS sites, as a component of an interconnected, statewide system of trails and greenways. Support efforts underway at parks such as Petersburg, Appomattox, and Richmond that are currently engaged in efforts to link battlefields, historic sites, parks, and communities.
- Work with state agencies to elevate battlefield protection in various land conservation, scenic viewshed, and heritage preservation initiatives. Utilizes partnerships to identify, prioritize, and develop strategies to protect critical resources.

33) The **Appomattox Court House National Historical Park** has management concerns that include the increasing traffic and adverse impact of SR 24, protection of cultural resources and lands not currently within the park and accelerated development on the park's boundaries.

National Forests (USFS) Recommendations

The U. S. Forest Service should:

- Continue to develop new partnerships to market recreational opportunities and rural economic development through tourism; work with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia's Blue Ridge Highlands Tourism, Inc., and the Virginia Tourism Corporation to develop regional and international marketing strategies to showcase Virginia's outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Continue to place program emphasis on areas designated by Congress such as the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and Wilderness Areas.

STATE FACILITIES

State Parks

The approval of the 2002 General Obligation Bond referendum resulted in funds that benefit the entire state park system. Funds were allocated for new state park acquisitions and for the acquisition of lands adjacent to existing parks, thus providing continued protection of dwindling open space. The bond also provided funding for numerous new facilities, improvements to existing facilities and trails, and for the development of new trails.

In accordance with Code Section 10.1-200.1 - State park master planning, master plans must be developed for new state parks prior to the implementation of any new development. Existing master plans are to be re-evaluated every five years. The master planning process requires public involvement which has been handled in two ways. First, an advisory committee, comprised of local officials, representatives from various user groups, businesses, tourism, adjacent landowners, and others who are stakeholders in the site, is developed to participate through the entire development process of a state park master plan. Second, public meetings are held several times during the process to gain public input and the presentation to the Board of Conservation and Recreation is open to the public. Any significant change to the plan or additions, the cost of which is in excess of \$500,000, requires public input.

State parks are listed on the Wildlife and Birding Trail. Numerous park sites participate in regional and local initiatives such as trail development and programming.

34) Implement **Smith Mountain Lake State Park Master Plan**.

35) Implement **Holliday Lake State Park Master Plan**.

State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) Recommendations

- The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries should continue to develop trail systems within wildlife management areas to facilitate access for nature study, birdwatching, hunting, and fishing.
- They should also acquire additional lands wherever feasible to provide additional access for public hunting, fishing and other wildlife viewing recreation.

36) DGIF should continue to investigate opportunities at the **Featherfin WMA** to acquire in-holdings and to improve the area with trails and other structures for wildlife viewing and other outdoor recreation.

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State Forests Recommendations

- DOF will coordinate with, and seek the assistance of, local trail and river user organizations to develop forest trails and publish maps for each state forest as well as establish greenways and blueways for public use.
- Localities should work with DOF to stress the importance of the urban canopy and help localities set goals.
- Localities should work with DOF to demonstrate the importance of a healthy urban tree canopy and develop strategies to enhance the urban forest.

37) Continue development of the **Appomattox Buckingham State Forest to Cumberland State Forest hiking** trail and opportunities for horseback riding.

Natural Areas

There are currently no dedicated natural area preserves within the Region 2000 Local Government Council.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation has, as of November 2006, documented 109 occurrences of 67 rare species and natural communities in the Region 2000 Local Government Council. Twenty species are globally rare and five are federally threatened or endangered. Forty-four conservation sites have been identified in the district; 29 (66%) have received some level of protection through ownership or management by state, federal and non-government organizations. However, only XX sites are protected well enough to ensure the long-term viability of the rare species and natural communities they support.

DCR recommends that all unprotected conservation sites, and all unprotected portions of partially protected sites, be targeted for future land conservation efforts. The appropriate method of protection will vary with each site but may include placing the site on Virginia's Registry of Natural Areas, developing a voluntary management agreement with the landowner, securing a conservation easement through a local land trust, acquiring the site through a locality or local land trust, dedicating the site as a natural area preserve with the current owner, or acquiring the site as a state-owned natural area preserve. Within the Region 2000 Local Government Council, DCR is particularly interested in protecting:

- Habitat for the globally rare Kankakee globe-mallow
- Riparian areas in watersheds that support the federally endangered Roanoke logperch and other rare aquatic species
- Riverside prairies

Information about the location of conservation sites and the natural heritage resources they contain, as well as management assistance, is available to local planners from DCR's Natural Heritage staff. For a discussion of the Natural Heritage Program, [see page xxx.](#)

Natural Heritage Program Conservation Priorities for PD 11:

- Protect habitat for the globally rare Kankakee globe-mallow
- Protect riparian areas in watersheds that support the federally endangered Roanoke logperch and other rare aquatic species
- Protect riverside prairies

38) Include the Ruskin Freer Natural Area in the planning and development of the Blackwater Creek Natural Area.

Transportation

Transportation is integral to conservation and outdoor recreation. General recommendations relating to transportation for the region include:

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- Greater emphasis needs to be placed on providing alternatives to the use of private automobiles for daily activities. Transit systems, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, improved community design, as well as a change in people's attitudes toward transportation alternatives will be needed for the transportation system of the future to meet capacity needs and energy constraints. (www.vtrans.org)
- Priority should be given to eliminating potential transportation barriers for the public, and improving the linkages of recreation areas across major transportation corridors.
- Local governments should encourage the development of a permanent process for integrating the recommendations of local public health agencies and active living into all phases of land use planning.
- Provide greater access to recreational sites through the development of alternative transportation facilities.
- **Complete and implement the Bikeway Plan for Bedford County and City.**
- Complete, implement, review and update area bicycle and pedestrian plans to include additional off-road opportunities.

Local Parks and Recreation Departments

All of the localities in Region 2000 are served by a parks and recreation departments. The urbanized areas within PD 11 have a better supply of recreational facilities, both in terms of quality and quantity. According to the Commonwealth of Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts, Comparative Report on Local Government Revenues and Expenditures, Year Ended June 30, 2005, per capita spending on parks and recreation for each locality in this region was: Bedford City, \$116.62; Lynchburg, 95.71; Amherst County, \$10.60; Bedford County, \$19.47; Appomattox County, \$15.19 and Campbell County, \$15.36. The budgetary and actual expenditures for the region indicate that spending for recreation in the urban areas, at an average of \$105.86, which is almost four times higher the average spent in the counties. The counties average expenditure is \$15.15, which is well below the statewide county average of \$43.75.

The presence of **Smith Mountain Lake** has provided the catalyst for the development of a large retirement community. It is in the 15th year of a 20-year **recreation plan**, which emphasizes both acquisition of land for recreational purposes and long-term leases with private entities to provide services for recreational facilities. Bedford County's major recreational need is athletic fields and courts, particularly in the fast growing Forest, Smith Mountain, Moneta and Stewartsville areas. These needs could be identified and solutions recommended through the development of a regional open space and park plan. [Is this the same as the Shoreline management plan?

Local & Regional Parks & Recreation Recommendations

- Localities should appoint a parks and recreation commission to provide citizen leadership with regard to parks and recreation issues and concerns. Commissions have been effective in many localities to enhance park areas and recreation programs. This is most important in localities where no parks and recreation department exists.
- Commitments to the maintenance, management, and development of local parks and recreational systems are necessary. Localities should explore alternative methods of funding, such as set-aside ordinances, fees and charges and public/private partnerships. The establishment of a "friends group," which could possibly evolve into a "park foundation," should be considered for the local parks and recreation department. This citizens group could be a source of volunteers, as well as a source for community support and other resources.
- Local parks and recreation departments should initiate a structured volunteer program that recruits, trains and retains volunteers, and recognizes their contributions to parks, programs and the overall quality of life in communities.

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- All localities should develop and implement hiking and bicycling plans to connect parks, schools, and neighborhoods. Encouraging biking and walking within the community can enhance community health and spirit.
- Parks and programs need to be accessible to special populations, including senior adults and persons with disabilities.
- Consideration by localities of the benefit of a school/park cooperative agreement could enhance use of school and park facilities. School systems and local parks and recreation departments should cooperate in the design of new or renovated facilities. In order to increase local access, localities should consider cooperative management for the recreational use of private, corporate, state or federally owned lands.
- All public playgrounds, including school and park playgrounds, should meet or exceed the guidelines established by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission and published in the USCPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety. All equipment should have a cushioned surface under and around it.
- Localities should explore turning abandoned landfills into new and needed parks. From Virginia Beach to New York City to Berkeley, California, localities have found they can add parkland, while removing community eyesores. http://ga0.org/ct/x7LKtNM1_RZ8/landfill_to_parks
- Amherst County should continue to develop a regional park with access to the James River for fishing, picnicking and trails. The plan would include a link to the James River Heritage Trail and a suspension bridge under Route 29.
- Localities need to create clear signage including readable maps of facilities and resources for public use.
- When private recreational lands convert to other uses the localities need to add the services provided by those sites.

Specific Regional Park Recommendations

39) Continued funding and development of **Riveredge Park** (acquired by DCR as Smiley/Block property and leased to Amherst County) should provide enhanced public recreation and river access opportunities. Initial park development includes a boat launching facility funded by the Commonwealth, City of Lynchburg, and Amherst County. With the continued support from the City of Lynchburg a connection from the existing Blackwater Creek trail and other greenways should be considered in future plans.

40) Provide **three regional parks**; one to be located near Montvail Elementary School, one near Route 714 adjacent the landfill and the third near Route 460. The latter would be developed jointly by Campbell County and the City of Lynchburg.

41) Consider recreational development of the public land surrounding the **Falling Creek and Beaver Dam reservoirs**, which are water sources for the inhabitants of the Roanoke Valley.

Other Federal & State Lands (Military & colleges/universities)

(Not final at this time)

42) The **Lynchburg Training School and Hospital** in Amherst County has approximately 100 acres of undeveloped land. Consideration for future use of the undeveloped land should include the preservation of open space, trails and connections to the James River.

43) Approximately 58 acres of the **Central Virginia Community College** tract in the City of Lynchburg are undeveloped and may have potential for recreational use.

Private Sector Recommendations

The private sector plays a significant role in providing recreational opportunities in the Commonwealth. Familiarity with the *Landowner Liability Law, Code of Virginia, Chapter 29.1-509* could encourage some landowners to enter into an agreement with a unit of government to provide public access while minimizing their liability. As many localities prepare for substantial increases in residential growth, consideration must be

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given for the inclusion of mechanisms within the permitting process to encourage or require the preservation of open space and the development of recreational amenities to meet communities' needs.

Developed campgrounds, resident summer camps for children, golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools, marinas and indoor recreational facilities help meet the needs identified in the 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey*. Within Region 2000, entrepreneurial opportunities exist for the establishment of outfitter services for canoeing and kayaking, boat launches, canoe-in campgrounds, multi-field sports complexes and swimming pools. Many of the needs could be met through the efforts of private enterprise, organizations or through partnerships and cooperative efforts by the private sector and units of governments.

The following general recommendations are made to improve private sector provisions of outdoor recreation.

- Encourage public outdoor recreation providers to partner with multiple private sector organizations.
- Recreational use agreements and/or easements should be encouraged for private property owners providing public recreation opportunities and to make more private lands available for recreation.
- Efforts should be made by DCR and local parks and recreation departments to make existing and potential private sector providers of outdoor recreation, especially where applicable to trails and greenways development, knowledgeable about the Virginia Landowner Liability Law.
- Local, state and federal outdoor recreation providers should support corporate recognition programs and improve corporate recognition for small business willing to incorporate outdoor recreation needs in an environmentally friendly manner.
- Private landowners might consider fee-based hunting, fishing and boating access.

Private landowners with adequate land for hunting may want to consider opening their lands on a fee basis. There may be opportunities for shooting ranges and related programs. Streams and rivers offer opportunities for private landowners to permit the launching and retrieving of boats. They also could provide lands for picnicking, camping and education. A fee could be charged to offset costs. Another alternative might be for landowners to enter into an agreement with a unit of government to provide water access for the public. The landowner would then be covered under the *Landowner Liability Law, Code of Virginia, Chapter 29.1-509*, which would provide some liability protection.

Many miles of trout streams and thousands of farm ponds lie on private land in the Commonwealth. Much public demand for fishing can be met if the owners of these lands will allow public access for fishing. Once again, the *Landowner Liability Law* can be helpful in lessening liability exposure if the public access is formalized through an agreement with a local governing body or state agency.

These could be linked to bed and breakfast opportunities, nursery and garden center operations, game farms and historical restorations. This concept should be expanded to farmers markets, pick-your-own operations, wineries and craft fairs. Private sector operations reinforce public programs and opportunities and result in economic growth for the region.

Specific recommendations to improve private sector provisions of outdoor recreation:

44) Preserve 'College Lake' on Lynchburg College campus for public use.